

## **What should I do when my child behaves poorly and does not have good manners?**

Be a good role model for your children. Be polite to people when they are talking. Use words like “Please”, “Excuse me”, “Thank you” and “You’re Welcome.” This will teach your child to use these polite phrases as well. It is unfair to expect politeness from children when their parents are not polite.

Teach your children manners in phases that are suitable for their comprehension and development. For example, a two year old will not be able to chew with his mouth closed because he lacks to understanding and coordination. However, a 4 or 5 year old child should have the ability and understanding to comply with this type of request.

Talk to your children about your expectations. Discuss the rules for when you are speaking to other adults. Explain to your children that they cannot interrupt adult conversations unless it is an urgent situation. Model appropriate behavior with your children by being considerate when talking to other people. Before beginning a lengthy conversation with another adult, talk to the children and make sure that they do not need anything. Explain that the adults will be talking, so they understand that they should not interrupt.

Children mimic adults and will repeat words and the tone of voice used during adult conversations. So, be careful of what language you use in front of your children and the manner in which you express those words.